

**Montana Aeronautics Board**  
**Montana Department of Transportation; Auditorium**  
**2704 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT**  
**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

**Aeronautics Board**

Tricia McKenna, Board Chairman  
Chris Edwards, Vice-Chair  
Robert Buckles  
Dan Hargrove  
Bill Hunt, Jr  
Fred Lark  
Fred Leistiko  
Roger Lincoln  
Walt McNutt

**Department of Transportation**

Debbie Alke, MDT Aeronautics  
Effie Benoit, MDT Aeronautics  
Wade Cebulski, MDT Aeronautics  
Tim Conway, MDT Aeronautics  
Carol Grell-Morris, MDT Legal

**Guests**

Rick Donaldson, Robert Peccia & Associates  
Scott Eaton, Federal Aviation Administration  
Nancy Faroni, Federal Aviation Administration  
Pat Wise, MDT Deputy Director  
Lynn Zanto, MDT Rail & Transit Planning Division Administrator

**Call to Order / Approval of Minutes**

- Chairman McKenna called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Introduction new board member, Dan Hargrove.
- Introduction of all board members to the public
- ***Bill Hunt made a motion to approve the June 2, 2015 board minutes as presented. Walt McNutt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.***

**MDT Update – MDT Deputy Director Pat Wise**

- 2015 financial recap:
  - Short-term federal financing left MDT with three week budgets to work with and uncertainties with state funding drove personnel and program decisions.
  - Largest contract in MDT history, \$34 million for the Kalispell Mine Pass; 4-Mile Drive Project, over \$31 million to repair interstate overpasses and bridges, and was able to award \$59.7 million to priorities identified by local governments.
  - Jet service to Yellowstone Airport is very exciting, saw a 40 percent passenger increase. The Aeronautics Board plays an import role in this with the Aeronautics Grants and Loans program.
  - Keeping freight moving keeps the economy moving in Montana. Shipped about \$21.6 billion from sites in Montana about \$37.9 billion to sites in Montana by truck.

- Transit is important in Montana, about 2.5 billion rides were provided by rural public transit in 2015. MDT provided \$8 million in operating grants and \$2.1 million in capital grants to rural transit operators in 2015.
- Broke ground on a new shop in Bozeman. Staff had been working out of a Quonset hut since the 1930's.
- Many retirements in MDT in 2015 and will continue to see retirements, MDT is working on a strong recruitment and retention program to keep the millennials at MDT.
- 2016
  - MDT Director Mike Tooley has set three major priorities for MDT:
    - Fixing American Service Transportation (FAST) Act – Montana was able to maintain flexibility in program funding, allowing Montana to move dollars most efficiently based on need. There is a new freight plan through the FAST Act that will occur through the TranPlan 21.
    - Stabilize state special revenue fund. The state special revenue fund has seen chronic underfunding that has not allowed for the increase in expenses. Additionally, this biennium MDT was asked to manage with \$29 million less in cash. Beginning conversations to increase revenue for the 2017 legislative session.
    - Reverse the trend of fatalities in Montana. Vision Zero is zero fatalities and 0 serious injuries. MDT is taking a leadership role with other state organizations for Vision 0. Reminded everyone to take personal responsibility to buckle your seatbelt, don't speed, and don't drive distracted.
- Fred Leistiko asked if the Highway department had a state match like the Aeronautics program for Federal grants. Ms. Wise responded that the Highway department's state match runs from 11 to 15 percent.
- Chairman Trish McKenna commented that when having to travel and can't fly, have to drive. She knows when she is in Montana because of the good condition of the highways and snow removal, commending MDT for their efforts.

#### **Aeronautics Update - Debbie Alke, Aeronautics Division Administrator**

- Reminded the Aeronautics Board that Aeronautics and Yellowstone airport are recipients of some of the MDT state special revenue fund. Aeronautics division operating fund receives \$150,000 a year and MDT has committed to almost \$1 million match for pavement preservation at Yellowstone Airport from the special state fund.
- Grant funds down to \$260,000. Aeronautics fund receives \$.02 from general aviation and the airlines which equals about \$635,000, with 60 percent coming from airlines and 40 percent from general aviation. MDT does not expect that to vary in future years.
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is up for reauthorization, working with our delegation and other states to secure money for FAA. Senator Daines is supportive and brainstorming with telecom conferences with stakeholders for input.
- Powder River Training Complex update - Training exercise held December 2 and 3. Notice was received as required and MDT has not heard of any significant issues.
- Essential Air Service - Cape Air selected for unprecedented four-year contract. Boardings were up until last month due to the national 1,500 of flying hours for first officer requirement. Cape Air's 1,500 hour captains are being taken away by major carriers and caused cancellations during

the week between Christmas and New Years. Cape Air's executive team is coming to Billings to meet with the communities.

- Airline traffic is up at Yellowstone by 40 percent for the season. SkyWest is starting six days early. We have some growing pains with secured areas, but will work through them.
- Bozeman announced direct service to Dallas by American Airlines.
- Economic study has been underway for a while and now doing some work on the project.
- Recreational Aviation Foundation, founded in Montana, working in DC to preserve funding for backcountry airstrips. Did get language in the Department of Agriculture bill stating that \$750,000 shall be used for the maintenance of rural airstrips. Additionally, the Forest Service cannot close airstrips without approval.
- Tim Conway updated the board on the loan and grant audits. In fiscal year 2014 we audited Ronan and Glasgow with no findings. In fiscal year 2015, there will be audits at Cut Bank and Twin Bridges. The audits are based on higher dollar amounts and risk, choosing a federal and nonfederal project. In the future there will be a status report closeout form, so that airports report on how they spent the money to be eligible for a loan or grant the following year.

### **Board Updates**

- Each board member gave a brief update for the Aeronautics Board.

### **TranPlan 21 Update – MDT Rail, Transit and Planning Division Administrator**

- Lynn Zanto presented MDT's TranPlan 21 Update. (*See handouts.*)

### **Next Meeting**

- The June Extension meeting is tentatively set for 6/2/16 at 9:00 a.m. via teleconference.
- The next board meeting is tentatively set for 1/18-19/17.

### **Review of Loan/Grant Applications**

- **Bridger Municipal Airport** applied for a \$2,917 grant to rehabilitate the apron and taxiway. These are federal projects.
- **Broadus Airport** applied for a \$9,400 grant and a \$9,400 loan to rehabilitate the runway, apron, and taxiway. These are federal projects.
- **Canyon Ferry Airport** applied for a \$5,140 grant to acquire security equipment and install perimeter fencing. These are nonfederal projects.
- **Chinook - Edgar G. Obie Airport** applied for \$173,625 grant and \$87,250 loan to rehabilitate the apron. \$43,625 of the project is federally funded.
- **Choteau Airport** applied for a \$9,250 grant to conduct an update to their airport master plan study.
  - Choteau Airport does not have the federal match, so the FAA is not funding this project. However, the FAA would fund the project if the airport was able to obtain the local match.
- **Columbus - Wolterman Memorial Airport** applied for a \$94,272 grant and a \$94,272 loan to rehabilitate the runway, apron, and taxiway. These are nonfederal projects.
- **Deer Lodge-City-County Airport** applied for a \$75,833 grant and a \$75,836 loan to acquire land and easement for approaches, conduct environmental assessments, extend, widen, strengthen

runway to meet FAA standards, to light, mark, or remove hazardous obstructions. These are federal projects.

- **Dillon Airport** applied for a \$11,750 grant and a \$11,750 loan to acquire snow removal equipment and install apron lighting. These are federal projects.
- **Ennis Big Sky Airport** applied for a \$204,000 grant to acquire land for development, conduct and update the airport master plan study, rehabilitate the taxiway and apron, construct a standard apron, install weather reporting equipment, install and rehabilitate airport beacons, install guidance signs and runway incursion caution bars, install miscellaneous NAVAIDs, and install runway vertical guidance system.
  - The construction and update the airport master plan study was a retroactive federal project.
  - The remaining projects are federally funded.
- **Eureka Airport** applied for a \$10,000 grant to conduct and update the airport master plan study. This is a federal project.
- **Fairfield Airport** applied for a \$51,100 grant to construct a standard apron. This is a nonfederal project.
- **Glasgow - Wokal Field, Glasgow/Valley Co Airport** applied for a \$76,415 grant and a \$76,415 loan to rehabilitate the runway, apron, and taxiway. These are retroactive federally funded projects.
- **Hamilton - Ravalli Co Airport** applied for a \$23,750 grant to conduct an environmental assessment, rehabilitate the apron and taxiway and to construct an apron. These are federally funded projects.
- **Hardin - Fairgrounds Airpark** applied for a \$13,750 grant to construct, improve, or repair fuel utilities. These are federally funded projects.
- **Havre City-County Airport** applied for a \$9,500 grant and a \$9,500 loan to rehabilitate the taxiway and apron. These are federally funded projects.
- **Laurel Municipal Airport** applied for a \$7,500 grant to install weather reporting equipment. This is a federally funded project.
- **Lewistown Municipal Airport** applied for a \$23,793 grant and a \$23,793 loan for snow removal equipment and chemical storage building. These are retroactive federally funded projects.
- **Libby Airport** applied for a \$18,450 grant to light, mark, or remove obstructions. This is a retroactive federally funded project.
- **Livingston - Mission Field Airport** applied for a \$10,250 grant and a \$10,250 loan to rehabilitate the taxiway, runway, and apron. These are federally funded projects.
- **Malta Airport** applied for a \$7,500 grant to install weather reporting equipment. This is a federally funded project.
- **Plains - Penn Stohr Airport** applied for a \$10,000 grant and a \$10,000 loan to rehabilitate the runway, taxiway, and apron and to contrast, expand, improve, or modify the access road. These are federally funded projects.
- **Polson Airport** applied for a \$54,564 grant to conduct or update the airport master plan study, acquire land for development, and to rehabilitate the runway. These are retroactive federally funded projects.
- **Ronan Airport** applied for a \$18,500 grant and a \$18,500 loan to conduct or update the airport master plan study. This is a federally funded project.

- **Roundup Airport** applied for a \$11,050 grant and a \$11,050 loan to rehabilitate the runway. This is a federally funded project.
- **St. Ignatius Airport** applied for a \$30,000 grant and a \$10,000 loan to rehabilitate the runway. This is a nonfederal project.
- **Shelby Airport** applied for a \$55,601 grant and a \$15,784 loan to rehabilitate runway, taxiway, and apron, construct expand, improve, modify the access road, construct, improve, or repair the fuel farm, and to improve airport drainage and erosion control.
  - The rehabilitation of the runway, taxiway, and apron are federally funded projects.
  - The construction, expansion, improvement, and modifications to the access road, the construction, improvement, or repairs to the fuel farm, and the improvement to the airport drainage and erosion control are nonfederal projects.
- **Stevensville Airport** applied for a \$130,000 grant to rehabilitate the runway and install weather reporting systems.
  - The runway rehabilitation is a federally funded project.
  - The installation of the weather reporting system is a retroactive federal project.
- **Superior - Mineral County Airport** applied for a \$12,000 grant and a \$12,000 loan to rehabilitate the runway. The application was withdrawn from the application process on 1/12/16.
- **Thompson Falls Airport** applied for a \$19,500 grant and a \$19,500 loan to construct, improve, or repair the fuel farm, install runway visual guidance system, and to install or rehabilitate the airport beacons.
  - The construction, improvement, or repairs to the fuel farm, and the installation of runway visual guidance system are federal projects.
  - The installation or rehabilitation of the airport beacons is a nonfederal project.
- **Three Forks - Pogreba Field Airport** applied for a \$5,000 grant to extend the taxiway. This is a federally funded project.
- **Turner Airport** applied for a \$2,875 grant to contrast a taxiway. This is a federally funded project.
- **Yellowstone Airport** applied for a \$216,356 grant to rehabilitate the taxiway. This is a federally funded project.

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Tricia McKenna, Chairman

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Roger Lincoln, Secretary